

WRESTLING

THEN & NOW

2 - 91

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

EDITOR'S NOTE: I wrote the following piece which was published in a non-wrestling periodical. The individuals I describe **are** wrestling fans. I have been enriched by getting to know these people and wanted to share this with my readers, many of whom have also become dear **friends**.

A VIEW FROM THE AUDIENCE

by Evan Ginzburg

The world is at my fingertips but I'm not too sure I want it.

Television brings me civilization's triumphs and tragedies "in living color." By picking up my phone I can reach virtually anyone, anywhere. Yet I prefer to pull out my rapidly deteriorating typewriter and correspond with people from different corners of the globe. I have never met these folk, but they make the world seem like a smaller and warmer place.

My involvement in this seemingly dying art of letter writing made the fine Broadway production of *84 Charing Cross Road* all the more meaningful for me. In the show, the real life correspondence between New York writer Helene Hanff (portrayed by Ellen Burstyn) and London bookseller Frank Doel (Joseph Maher) was recreated. At the start (1949) Ms. Hanff simply purchases rare books from Mr. Doel. Some 20 years later, however, a growing familiarity, fondness and friendship develop between the two.

Regrettably Ms. Hanff is unable to visit the England which she has grown to know and love, until after Mr. Doel's death. This helped me accept that I, too, may never get to New Zealand, though I feel a special closeness with this country. The vivid descriptions and materials sent by a wonderful middle-aged man have bridged a remarkable distance. In the three years we have written I feel I have come to know his friends and family. His daughter's recent marriage to a paraplegic has even deepened his pride and love for her. Her goal of coaching New Zealand's paraplegic Olympic team has become his dream as well. I am lucky that a 6,000 mile barrier hasn't prevented me from knowing a beautiful human being.

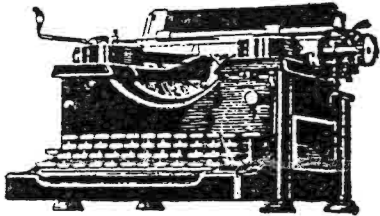
I may never see Japan either, but am inspired by a young mother who is studying to become an English teacher. Eco-

nomie restrictions and parental responsibilities prevent her from attending college, but she spends countless hours in independent study. As a young teacher I can understand her need and dedication. Japan seems an alien culture to me, but the emotions and desires of this young woman are certainly not far from my own.

Dedication is also a way of life for a young lady I correspond with in a small Mississippi town. She spends her days working, painting, and writing poetry. She saves what little she can in order to someday move to New York where she feels she will receive greater cultural stimulation. In *84 Charing Cross Road* one feels a kind of love develop between Ms. Hanff and Mr. Doel. I feel a similar love for this woman and anxiously await the day she fulfills her immense potential.

My correspondent in Missouri may not have such a bright future, but is a fine person nonetheless. Performing menial chores in a small office, he survives on a minuscule salary and lives in a one-room apartment. Yet the beauty of the man is that he is grateful for what he has. In one letter he proudly describes dancing with a woman at his local bar, an event which transpires on an extremely irregular basis. I realized that this experience made someone who takes orders all week feel more important than he had in years. I am unquestionably a better person since getting to know this individual.

But just what have I given these people? Like Ms. Hanff, I hope it has been a show of love and support. When I send an English text to Japan, I feel I have a stake in someone's dream. I want my correspondents to grow and prosper, just as I would my dearest friends and family. *84 Charing Cross Road* helped show that the beauty of love is that it comes in all shapes and sizes—even in an envelope. □



Have you ever had an experience (funny, sad, enlightening) in the theatre, which has had a special meaning for you? Submit your manuscript (700 words or less) to PLAYBILL, Dept. AV, 100 Ave. of Americas, NYC 10013. We will pay \$100 for any manuscript we publish.

LETTERS TO WT&N

Enjoyed issue #11 a lot. Dr. Lano's article on the America's title brought back memories since I was at the Olympic for most of those matches. I wish Mike would do a complete title history from Pampero Firpo to its completion. A couple of months ago I found a couple of issues of Lano's old sheet "Blassie- King of Men." It was a lot of fun. I haven't run into one of Ronald Dobratz's sheets but someone told me he was the Meltzer of the 70's.

If you're thinking of going bi-monthly, do it. There must be many wrestling historians out there who could help you out with copy, especially with "The Reflector" folding. I'm "The Phantom's" biggest fan and I'd like to see his column more than once or twice a month in "The Forum." There are a few other people I consider wrestling historians that I'd like to see in "Then & Now." Maybe if you sent them a few issues with a note, they might consent and write columns or letters. My picks would be Jim Melby, Steven Munari, Mike Tenay, Glenn Bray, Harry White, and Frederick Hornby. These are just the people I know (all heavyweights). There must be more who could add material.

Thanks and keep up the good work. Oh yeah, I hope you're not married. Seems sheets & women don't mix.



STEVE YOHE
ALHAMBRA, CA.

I recently picked up some wrestling videos from the 60's and 70's. Saw some greats like Sam Steamboat, Antonino Rocca, Dick the Bruiser, Gorgeous George, The Crusher and Eddie and Jerry Graham in action.

Issue #11 was great. Your cover stories are **the** best. In the real world now I'm having trouble deciding whether to go into the armed forces or continue going to the trade school I currently attend or get a job, any job so my father can retire and enjoy what time he has left. But when the RMWA or any independent or federation comes to Colorado and I walk into that arena and sit in my front row seat, I feel as if I'm the center of attention. Instead of worrying about my problems, all the worries I have are whether or not my favorites are going to win. I feel I am the ruler of the world for the next 3 or so hours.

As always the Reader Profile was good along with Stars of the Past, Book Reviews, Looking Back at Chicago Wrestling and the Fishman. I also can't wait for the return of the "Wrestling Time Machine."

BOYCE JOHANSEN
ARVADA, CO.



Must say I loved your latest issue, and really enjoy each and every one. Your writing is fresh and the contents unique, and your contributors add greatly to the total presentation. Always particularly enjoy your personal editorial.

Anyway, will put the word out here, and do wish you the very best of everything with WT&N and all you undertake. Wrestling and wrestling history are dear to my heart and I love to see the sport receive the proper recognition it deserves, then & now!

VERNE LANGDON
STUDIO CITY, CA.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Verne runs Slammer's Wrestling Gym- 12165 Branford St., Unit N Sun Valley, Ca. 91352- wrestling lessons & museum!).

**INTERVIEW - WRESTLING RADIO TALK SHOW HOST LARRY KATZ**

Larry Katz hosts one of this nation's top wrestling talk shows on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore every Saturday night from 12-2 AM. He also co-hosts a nationally syndicated talk show, Pro Wrestling Digest, on the American Radio Network. Larry's promoting a trip to Wrestlemania 7- details can be attained by calling 1-800-YES TRAVEL.

EG- You must meet some interesting characters doing your show. Who sticks out in your mind?

LK- They're all interesting in so many ways. I had Bill Ripkin of the Orioles on. He's a big wrestling fan. Paul E. Dangerously is a lot of laughs. He helped put us on the map.

EG- Tell us about some of your more memorable experiences in wrestling.

LK- When I was in Texas I did a personal interview with Kevin & Kerry Von Erich along with Chris Adams and Jeannie. After the interview we went to a little Dairy Queens and the USWA wrestlers were mingling with the fans from Chris Adam's indie. It was a folksy kind of thing. Makes wrestlers seem more down to earth. Most of the wrestlers I've met are nice people in spite of the sums of the money some make. My first major guest was Afa the Wild Samoan and he was great. My next big guest was Big John Studd who did a great job. A lot of guests are reluctant to come on. John Studd after an hour said "Can I come on every week?" Studd did his own talk show every week for a while...

EG- Do you find most of your guests tend to be honest or do they stay in their "ring character?"

LK- Most of my guests tend to be honest. I didn't know what the show would be like when I started it. It evolved into a talk-show where people just happen to talk about wrestling...who's hurt...who's going to the NWA...I simply want people to like the show and get info. I want to be like a traffic director and go from there...I'm basically a fan who loves wrestling.

EG- You've also done ring announcing. Any interesting "road" stories?

LK- What ring announcing has taught me is just how hard the wrestling life is. Sometimes I'd drive 2½ hours each way- roads no wider than a bathroom in a hotel for little or no money. Many wrestlers are underpaid and the travel is excruciating; it's not as glamorous as it could be- little towns and long drives; it's very tiring and wears you to a frazzle. Sometimes you're on roads where you don't see anything for miles- **nothing** - not even gas stations or 7-11's. Some wrestlers wind up losing money. I've announced matches where 40 fans show up...my main desire is to broadcast.

EG- When did you first start watching wrestling?

LK- I was about 12. I enjoyed promoter Joe Murnick's product; I used to like all the bad guys. Rip Hawk and Swede Hansen were my favorites; they were hilarious! Also liked Don McLarity, Abe Jacobs, Lenny Montana, George Becker and Haystacks Calhoun. I used to go to the old Norfolk Arena. I eventually did some ring announcing there. It felt so strange coming back...

EG- Tell us about your Wrestlemania 7 trip.

LK- It's a great deal. Tickets, transfers, hotel all included (from \$77). Probably going to be the biggest crowd ever. McMahon will probably have as many mid-level celebrities like Vanna White as possible.

EG- Anything you'd like to add?

LK- As a host of a wrestling show & a ring announcer, I honestly feel that the wrestling fans are some of the warmest and finest fans in the world.

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THE "MARK" OF A TRUE WRESTLING FAN

An Editorial Written by Vic Stanley While He Was In a Bad Mood

Sometimes I wish I was a "mark" again. I have very reluctantly assumed the moniker of "smart fan" because I write for some of the newsletters, and owe it to my peers and my readers to be well informed. But am I enjoying wrestling more than I did when I wasn't aware of the implications of TV ratings, house receipts, lawsuits, PPV buy rates, political in-fighting and bookers? I don't think so. I don't knock those who simply enjoy wrestling as dumb entertainment (and it is dumb in a sense) without concerning themselves with the reality of it all; nor do I knock those who respect it enough to seriously analyze every aspect of it. I have picked it apart myself. Critical assessment of the sport keeps the powers that be on their toes and gives the fans an insight into the business. But I have never liked the arrogant, elitist attitude that many smart fans exhibit. I very rarely enlighten marks unless they ask. What purpose is served by telling a 10 year old kid that his hero is a steroid abuser, a drug addict, a rapist or a philanderer just because I know and he doesn't? Many smart fans are like the first kid on the block to hear the facts of life, who then proceeds to spread all kinds of misinformation to the younger kids because he really doesn't know what he is talking about.

I wish that I could still enjoy wrestling as a simple bombardment of the senses like I did when I was a kid. The first time I saw Ric Flair put a kneedrop on an opponent's head, I was convinced that there was no way to fake such a move. Obviously, it was Flair's great skill as an athlete and an actor which sold it. As I grew older, I was still able to suspend my sense of reality enough to enjoy it in the spirit that it was intended. I have always liked the comic aspect of the sport the most, anyway. The more grim and mean spirited the action becomes, the less believable it is to me, or at least less sincere. I would rather watch Playboy Buddy Rose wrestle Iron Mike Sharpe or the Duke of Dorchester than Sid Vicious wrestle anybody. I just want to be entertained. But the "smarter" I get, the less I am enjoying it as pure entertainment. I must make a conscious effort to separate the business from the fun. I catch myself constantly assessing the political implications of why Wrestler X is taking the pinfall, when it really shouldn't matter.

The newsletters have been a mixed blessing to the wrestling industry. They provide much enlightening information and insight to those who are really interested in the behind the scenes action. I enjoy finding out real names, upcoming angles, interviews and the other gossip as much as any fan. It is all good fun as long as it is the sport itself that is the center of attention, not the self-obsessed know-it-alls who are using wrestling as a vehicle to rant and rave about how "in the know" they are (i.e. Sheet Wars). Perhaps I have been guilty of this myself. How seriously should wrestling be taken? To most people, the smarter you purport to be about wrestling, the dumber they think you are, simply because you take what they consider such a dumb form of entertainment so seriously.

The smart fans are neither understood nor appreciated by the wrestling business, partially because of the arrogance that some fans exhibit. But all too often, the Rene Goulet Goon Squad is on the attack when a fan wears a Sting t-shirt to a WWF TV taping or commits some other mortal sins against the ten commandments of Vince McMahon. The business must realize that the smart fans faithfully pay to attend house shows. "They buys their ticket - they takes their chance." Let them wear their t-shirts or boo the good guys if they want to. Needless to say, the WWF knows all the tricks of creative editing. On the other hand, there is nothing more obnoxious

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

VIC STANLEY'S BAD MOOD EDITORIAL CONTINUED!

or unwelcome that a smart aleck sheet reader at a house show spouting off insider information for the sole purpose of destroying the illusions of some younger fans who just want to see the Tugboat. Just let them enjoy it.

There are many fine newsletters on the market. I've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to contribute to some of the best on a wide variety of topics ranging from the sociological aspects of the sport to satire and nostalgia. I have also learned just what a job it is to attempt to publish a newsletter. I admire those who commit themselves to the undertaking; even more those who actually succeed. The newsletters I have written for have never lost sight of the premise that wrestling is fun. It is a pure form of timeless entertainment and should remain so for the sake of future generations. It is great that kids can approach wrestling with the attitude that what they are viewing is real. In a world full of gray areas, it is nice to have a diversion that is strictly black and white - good vs. evil. Although the behind the scenes aspect of wrestling will always be a dirty business, there is comfort in knowing that the purity of the sport as entertainment will always endure. Let's not ruin it for the kids.

IN THE DEVIL'S DEN BY THE JERSEY DEVIL



It certainly is your pleasure to meet the new star of Wrestling-Then & Now. Just as I turned Cassette Wrestling News into a phenomenon in the world of wrestling, I intend to turn this rag into a money-making enterprise. I am just the man to do it! Besides, being the greatest wrestling commentator today, I have a long list of business conquests, too long to mention here. Of course, with the brilliant business mind of WT&N's editor Evan "Mr. Personality" Ginzburg, I'll have full control of this catastrophe before very long.

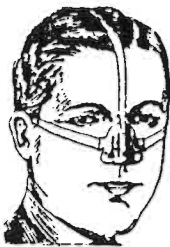
I usually work in the media of the spoken word, but since Mr. Personality begged me to write this column (and the opportunity to take over another failing business presented itself), I've decided to branch out. Now, hopefully you toothless geeks will find someone to read these pearls of wisdom to you.

It's also a real thrill to be in the same publication as immortals like Gary Fishbreath and the amazing wrestling gynecologist Dr. Mike Lame-O. What an incredible staff Ginzburg has put together. He's the Vince Lombardi of wrestling sheet writers! Yeah, and JYD can wrestle too!

Well, on to the reason why I'm here. Mr. Personality has asked me to "reminisce" about wrestling of years past as they relate to the great Jersey Devil. I probably should save this for my memoirs but with so many more accomplishments to be proud of, I suppose a few crumbs for you poor deprived geeks can't hurt.

I started out like most pathetic little twerps, as a mark rooting for the likes of muscleheads like Bruno Sammartino, but unlike the others I was able to rise above the crowd at an early age. I found out that men like Don Leo Jonathan, Lou Albano, Stan Stasiak and the late, great Grand Wizard knew what it takes to make it...winning at all costs! However it was not until the fateful day that I witnessed the hot rod, Rowdy Roddy Piper totally humiliate "coconut head" Jimmy Snuka, that I knew the world finally had someone to admire and emulate. Sure, Piper is masquerading as a face now but for all the right reasons, money! I have no doubt that the true hot rod will show himself at the most opportune time.

Well, that's all you ignorant geeks deserve for this issue. If you want more of the great Jersey Devil you'll just have to subscribe to CWN. Often imitated, never duplicated, this is the Jersey Devil from deep...in the swamps...of Jersey.



DR. MIKE LANO'S "LEBELLIAN HISTORY"

From roughly the 50's thru the early 60's to his death, a very honest Cal Eaton promoted wrestling at the Olympic Auditorium, Hollywood Legion Stadium, and all the local arenas in Bakersfield, San Bernardino, and Santa Monica. Upon his death in the mid-60's, eldest son Mike Lebell took the promotion over and also began promoting boxing in the family owned Olympic Auditorium with figurehead boxing promoter, mom Eileen Eaton (who died last year).

Mike, after a few years of easy pickings (i.e. good houses with only 4 well paid names usually at one time- Blassie, Brazil, Mascaras, Austin) in 1969 found Verne Gagne attempting to move in on his territory at the nearby and newly built fabulous Forum- home of the Lakers & Kings. Verne only put on two shows that failed to draw since he virtually had little publicity while Lebell, on the other hand saturated the media- had Blassie often on the Steve Allen and Regis Philbin shows and brought in all the NWA talent he could muster on several spectaculars including Funk Jr. defending the title against the Sheik and Buddy Austin, Ray Stevens, Don Leo Jonathon, Tolos, Brazil, Pat Patterson, Bull Ramos, Ernie Ladd, Gorilla Monsoon, The Mongol, Pedro Morales, Luke Graham, The Convict (now Uncle Elmer), The Destroyer, Baba and Little Tokyo (Antonio Inoki!), and top names at the time. Winning this short battle and driving Verne out, Mike soon drove veteran great TV play by play Dick Lane out by 1973 and supplanting him with Judo Gene Lebell, his younger brother. Gene, a former Judo champ and mediocre wrestler, became at the time the worst color commentator/play by play/shill of modern times. Forget about Crockett, when Gene and Jeff Walton were on or interviewing guys it was the worst mess anyone could recall-especially either interviewing the mumbler-Vic Rivera. Walton, a capable Blassie fan club President before John Arezzi took over in 1973, was also God awful- like Buddy Austin, he was the unlucky soul- ready for lightning to shoot him down. Going through a series of bookers from Blassie to Tolos to Rivera to Louie Tillet to Tolos to the Guerreros; Mike finally did the booking with brother Gene which ended with the disastrous 1979 to 1981 merciful death and later acquisition by Vince Jr. and Titan. With few names, little money and minute pay scale, too many screw jobs on workers and fans alike. Mike, Gene and Jeff finally got what was coming to them-in that fans tired of gimmicks, jobbers in other groups who were pumped as mainers in L.A., and green rookies who were quickly elevated to main status (Chris Adams proved the exception as he turned out to be a superstar, while Adrian Street- a semi-mainer in England for the Pallo Promotions turned up the gay act for Lebell truly killing the promotion). Judo Gene was even made "America's Champion" for lack of guys to push. Jeff Walton and Tom Renesto left a string of debt in whatever promotion they ended up trying to aid. What was once a hotbed, and second only to Detroit for creative juice angles died in the dust with the "Living Frankenstein" gimmick, Exotic Adrian Street, Geraldine Geer the Chicken Lady, and Mando Lopez.



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BOOK REVIEWS BY NICK VOSS



PLAY ME THE SONG OF DEATH:

Not truly a wrestling book, this Dale Pierce product features a writer, his sister, a wrestler, and a manager all vacationing in Spain, where they rent a house once owned by a famous, devil-worshipping matador, killed in the ring. From there, wrestling takes a backrow seat, barring brief notations and references, while the bloodshed, ghost stories, and murders start to take place. The star wrestler in the text, named Dennis Flagstaff (a joke name. Flagstaff is a city in Northern Arizona, where the author once had a fiancée, and Pierce was known in the 1980's for magazine work on wrestling from his Phoenix homebase), dies an eerie, bloody death and as he dies, suffers flashbacks to the wrestling ring, where presumably he is getting his head bashed in, just as he is at the moment of death in the text. Tongue-in-cheek references to area wrestlers Billy Anderson and Mike Gordon are also made. Anderson later went on to be a WWF undercard face, and now runs a school in California (He has supposedly helped train many top names who made it where he didn't). Gordon, incidently, has vanished from view. Not a wrestling book, but morbid, violent, and uses wrestling effectively as a pushed back subtheme to enhance the characters and their delusions. \$6.00 from Dale Pierce, Box 23241, Phoenix, Az. 85063.

A CENTURY OF SPORTS:

A massive hardcover book released by The Associated Press in 1971, with a number of editors contributing articles dealing with the history of baseball, football, basketball, tennis, bullfighting, Olympics, weight lifting, swimming, and racing; there is a decent chapter on wrestling as well, which surprisingly doesn't mess with the wrestling world as other books have or mock it to a stomach-turning degree. The book deals with the career of Frank Gotch and his bouts with Fred Beell (whose name they spell incorrectly as Beale, at least if the generally accepted, "proper" spelling of the name might be taken as genuine). The book also has a photo of a New Zealand wrestler named John De Silva (?) in action. While the text is nothing to set the world on fire or make wrestling fans drop to their knees in awe for the editors, the book is probably one of the many overlooked publications from the 1970's, when wrestling was in its Dark Age stage again after the 1950's-early 60's phenomenon, and if found on sale cheaply enough, would be worth a purchase.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO:

The Imagine Inc. Co., which has previously been known for stuff in the horror film world, has put out a pretty classy book by the ex-WWF headliner and according to their office, may soon be found in bookstores, which should help distribution much. While others have commented on this, I would like to add my own two cents. While I sure didn't think much of Bruno as WWF commentator after retirement, I still recall his wild bouts with Graham, Patera, Koloff, Verdu, The Sheik, Steele, and his classic draw with Pedro Morales. I'd take him over Hogan or The Warrior any day. Reading this book brought back some fond memories and made me hate McMahon Jr. twice as much, recalling how he's messed up the sport since 1984. I'd recommend this, even if the cost might be steep. It's a lot better than the crappy expose material, the WWF backed garbage hyping their so-called stars of today, and the rehashing of magazine work as with The Good, The Bad, The Ugly-The Pictorial History Of Wrestling, and so on. I won't rehash what others have said, but I will say, buy this book, if you buy any!

**LOOKING BACK TO CHICAGO WRESTLING - 1951 - BY RON DOBRATZ**

The 1951 Chi. wrestling scene featured an interesting blend of talented, colorful, and powerful wrestling stars. Among the most colorful, was Mexican native, Tony Olivass, who billed himself as "The Elephant Boy" from South Africa. Olivass, who wrestled to a draw with Chief Lone Eagle on April 20, was accompanied to the ring by "Slave Girl Moolah" (Lillian Ellison)

William J. Cobb assumed the role of "Happy Humphrey" who was the friendly pal of comic book boxer, Joe Palooka. Big Humphrey lost his Oct. 5th bout at the International Amphitheatre to Barney "The Chest" Bernard. Utilizing a powerful bearhug, Bernard triumphed in a handicap match against Balk Estes and Donn Lewin.

The Mighty Atlas won matches during the year against Mike Dibiasse (Ted's father) as well as Fritz Schnabel, Apache Craig, Farmer Don Marlin, Rowdy Rudy Kay, Carl Engstrom, and Cyclone Anaya. George "The Boston Strongboy" Dusette was equally successful in his bouts with Ned Taylor, Al Williams, Gypsy Joe, and Al Szasz. Both wrestlers were noted for their ability to clamp on a fullnelson in order to defeat the opposition. A matchup between the two powerhouses ended in a draw.

On April 20, the Mighty Atlas wrestled NWA Junior Heavyweight champion, Verne Gagne, in a handicap match, where he agreed to win 2 straight falls or be ruled the loser. Atlas managed to secure his fullnelson on Gagne once, but before he could win a second fall, the former Big Ten champion from Minnesota executed a perfect rolling cradle for the win. On November 9, Atlas and Gagne were rematched with conventional rules, with the same result. Gagne again succumbed to Atlas' fullnelson, but came back to win the next two falls with a sleeper hold and a reverse body press.

Hombre Montana, a bearded 355 pounder from Argentina, agreed to wrestle one of Chicago's top tag teams, Al Williams & Rudy Kay, in a handicap bout at Marigold Arena of February 3. At that time Montana needed to defeat both opponents to win one fall, and was required to win two falls to be declared the winner. Montana won the first fall before the Williams-Kay duo doubleteamed him until they were disqualified. As a result of this bout, the state commission redefined what was necessary to win a handicap match.

Montana was accompanied to the U.S. by fellow-Argentinian, Ramon Cernados. Cernados compiled an impressive list of victories against Bobby Nelson, Karl Gray, Tony Verdi, Joe Millich, Zack Malkov, Art Bull, Mike Kilonis, Bozo Brown, and Fritz Schnabel. Cernados' most impressive match was a draw at the Amphitheatre on Jan. 26 against Walter Palmer. Although Cernados & Montana teamed up for several wins, they lost to Chicago's most brutal team- Hans & Fritz Schnabel. Hans even outroughed Wladek Kowalski, who was awarded a win by dq. In these days prior to Kowalski's memorable bout with Yukon Eric, he was known as "Tarzan", rather than "Killer."

On Jan. 5, Buddy Rogers lost the first fall of his bout to Cyclone Anaya, conceding to his cobra twist. However, Rogers won the second fall with a piledriver, and was awarded the match when Anaya was still unconscious when the bell rang for the third fall. An equally interesting bout between Bronko Nagurski and Gorgeous George (May 11) ended prematurely and inconclusively in the third fall, when the Gorgeous One was disqualified.

NWA World Heavyweight Champion, Lou Thesz, successfully survived title defenses in Chicago against the Mighty Atlas (March 30), Hombre Montana (June 30), Bronko Nagurski (Oct. 5), and Tarzan Kowalski (Nov. 9). Thesz's most difficult bouts were with Buddy Rogers (Jan. 26) and Wild Bill Longson (July 21), who wrestled to hour draws with the champ.

R. DOBRATZ'S 1973 RECORD BOOK ONLY \$2! 11750 GRAYSTONE CIRCLE ROSCOE IL. 61073

READER PROFILE- JEFF RUBIN

My thanks to you and Cyndy Biderbest for sending me WT&N. I love your sheet. I'm 41 years old and have been a fan for 30 years. I grew up with the WWWF on the East Coast (New York, Washington DC, Boston, and Portland, ME.). Favorite wrestlers include Flair, Tenryu, Terry Funk, and Jerry Lawler. I will never forget the day I first discovered Pro Wrestling- I was 11 years old- I don't remember what time of year it was (probably sometime during the school year) but it was Saturday morning and I was changing the TV station looking for something to watch when I came upon the most awesome stuff I had ever seen. These two guys were beating each other up in a boxing ring but they didn't have any gloves on. As I sat glued to the screen one of the guys (whose name was Killer Dick Cory- bet you don't remember him) took a paper cup that had been thrown into the ring, crushed it up, and began raking the eyes of the other guy- whose name was Golden Boy Arnold Skaaland. Anyway, my mind was doing some crazy things when my father walked through the room, saw what I was watching and casually remarked "Oh, that stuff is all fake." Well I guess you could say that even in 1960 I was a rebellious kid, especially where my father was concerned. That one off the wall comment turned me into a rabid fan. Over the years my interest has had some ups and downs but at its lowest point I discovered the sheets and with it the "underground of white collar, blue collar and everyother color collar wrestling fans that spanned the globe- finally I could come out of the closet- I could shout from the highest mountain top "I am a fan of Pro Wrestling" and not let the dirty looks and behind the back sneers bother me any more.

EVERYONE LIKES A GOOD PLUG DEPARTMENT

My work appears in upcoming issues of Brian Tramel's Rasslin' Riot (\$3/4 issues to 1806 Self Circle, Apt. #B, Jonesboro, Ar. 72401), Georgiann Makropoulos' Wrestling Chatterbox (\$2 to 23-44 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102), Ron Lemieux's Arena Report (\$1 to PO Box 52547 Lake Mary, Fl. 3275) & Jeff Osborne's Cassette Wrestling News (\$3 to 3420 New Harmony Rd., Evansville, In. 47720)...Andrew Goldberger's Around The Ring features strong Wrestler Profiles (\$5/yr.- PO Box 6 Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776)...One of my fave people in rasslin', Cyndy Biderbest, puts out the soon to be bi-weekly Portland Wrestling Review (\$1 or \$20 yr. to PO Box 21, Duvall, Washington 98019)...Dr. Kay Fabe's Wrestling Line- 1-900-990-6676 (95¢/min.)...John Arezzi's Spotlight On Wrestling Sun. morn 10-12 WBAB 1240 AM/N.Y...Kenneth R. Levitt's Voice of The Mat: 4310 Beach 43rd St. Bklyn, NY 11224...Jeff Cohen's at the helm of the imaginative Fantasy Federation (\$3/3 issues to 50 Shelly Lane Great Neck, NY 11023)...Factsheet 5- Bible of the small press- \$3 to 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502...

NEXT ISSUE IN WT&N

Adam Horowitz debuts!!!!...Hot Rod Leighton, Mike Rodgers (on Texas 1979), & Harry White (a great piece on Brody turning face in St. Louis)...An exclusive look back at Dean Silverstone's booking office circa 1970's, Washington State...In upcoming issues you can look forward to more exclusive interviews, reader profiles & reminisces & all our regular features and columnists...WT&N always welcomes your letters & articles! Be a part of the fastest growing sheet in fandom!...



GARY FISHMAN'S COLUMN

Well it looks like Evan (panicked at the departure of former columnist Mr. Wrestling), has outdone himself by coming up with some guy called the Jersey Devil to be a regular contributor. At least he could have found someone who showed some kind of originality instead of an obvious rip-off of **Elmer Fudd**... Valentine's Day is almost upon us and Evan is still without a girlfriend. Perhaps there is an interested female reader who doesn't mind spending Saturday nights watching old tapes of Jerry Blackwell and Haystacks Calhoun having belly bump contests... By the way, there is no truth to the rumor that Evan is really Thunderbolt Patterson under a mask... The addition of ace dentist Mike Lano as columnist for WT&N really adds **teeth** to this publication. In the past he has written some really **biting** commentary, although at times he seems **down in the mouth**... If anyone can get me backstage at one of the upcoming NY area cards, please let me know; Evan can't even get me an invitation to one of Ron Lemieux's BYOB (Bring Your Own Blade) parties... Some of these bulletin editors should spend less time talking about wrestlers doing jobs and spend more time looking for one... This is my list of the best 25 heels I've ever seen in no particular order: Eddie Gilbert, Terry Funk, Ric Flair, Buddy Colt, Dory Funk, Jr., Roddy Piper, Ole Anderson, Michael Hayes (pre-Jim Garvin), Don Muraco, Bruiser Brody, Abdullah, Dick Murdoch, Jimmy Hart (pre-WWF), Kevin Sullivan, Dick Slater, Nick Bockwinkel, Ted Dibiase, Bill Watts, Pat Patterson, Buzz Sawyer, Stan Hansen, Adrian Adonis (pre-Adorable), Randy Savage, Harley Race and Gene Kiniski. I would love to see Harry White send in his list of his all-time favorite heels... If I had to pick one from this list as the greatest I've ever seen, it would have to be Terry Funk who is still the best in the biz... Note to Adam Horowitz: please don't write in and ask why I left King Kong Bundy and Mr. Fuji off this list!

CURFEW



Hope everyone's '91 is off to a good start... I attended NWA Meadowland's show & UWF tapings- didn't cover results in sheet as I knew other bulletins would. Hope that's OK with everyone as results are always the lowest priority in my mind... Caught The Turtles New Year's Eve- one of pop's funniest/happiest bands... Please keep me in mind if you have access to autographs... Saw Piper-Hennig on MSG Cable- Hot! (3½*). Also strong Rockers-Power & Glory 20 min. draw (3*). Otherwise the same old **NUMBINGLY BAD** matches. Hard to believe the 1990 version of Dino Bravo appears in MSG main-events while the 70's version **never did**... Price/size/frequency of WT&N will remain status-quo for time being as I'm busy working 2 jobs (thank Heaven!). However, a price increase is inevitable & present subscribers are invited to extend their subscriptions at current rates... Welcome back Dore Dequattro, Dr. Lano & the hardcore crew just back from Japan- maybe we can get a few comments on the Japan scene from them!... Richard Lewis told a funny wrestling story about meeting Dusty in an airport on his recent HBO comedy special. The guy's hilarious (but no Gary Fishman!)... Get well wishes to Jeff Rubin... Hope you didn't take my cover "reprint" as laziness on my part; I really wanted to share just what it means to me to correspond with so many wonderful people. Doing this bulletin has been incredibly rewarding (and I **don't** mean financially!!!)... The writing of our own Vic Stanley can be found in many non-wrestling zines (as is Rodney Leighton's)... Finally caught Survivor Series on tape. Cost \$1.50 to rent. **Probably** worth it. But 2½ hours of my time? Nah; **predictable/gutless** booking... Don't miss White Palace. Good flick!... Catch you all next time!